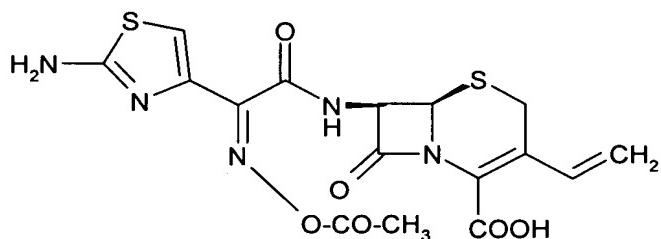


Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1. (Currently amended) A compound of 7-[2-(2-aminothiazol-4-yl)-2-(methylcarbonyloxyimino)acetamido-3-vinyl-cephem-4-carboxylic acid of formula I



in the form of a crystalline salt.

Claim 2. (Currently amended) A compound according to claim 1 in crystalline salt form, characterised in that wherein the crystalline salt is a salt with a sulfonic or phosphonic acid or a salt with sulfuric or sulfamic acid, as the hydrogen sulfate, sulfate or sulfamate, or a salt with phosphoric acid, as the phosphate, or a salt with hydrochloric acid, as the hydrochloride.

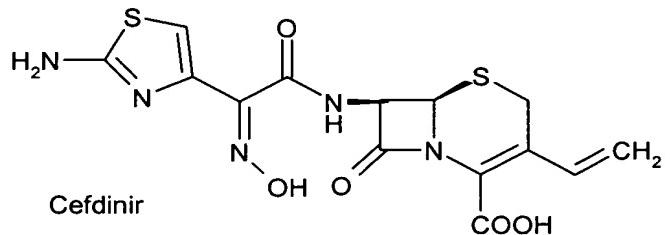
Claim 3. (Currently amended) A compound according to claim 2, characterised in that wherein the acid is an acid of formula II

HX II

in which X signifies Cl^- , HSO_4^- , R_1YO_3^- , H_2NSO_3^- , H_2PO_4^- , $\frac{1}{2}(\text{SO}_4)^{2-}$ wherein
 R_1 is alkyl or optionally substituted aryl and
Y signifies S or P.

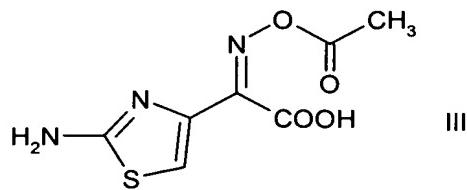
Claim 4. (Currently amended) A compound according to any one of claims 1 to 3, characterised in that wherein the crystalline salt is a p-toluenesulfonate, methanesulfonate, hydrogen sulfate, sulfate, amidosulfate, phosphate, hydrogen chloride or benzenesulfonate.

Claim 5. (Currently amended) A process for producing the compound of formula

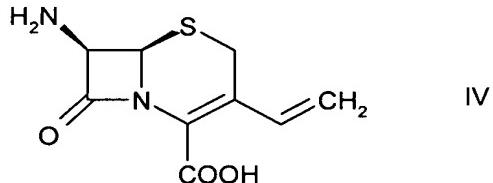


characterised in that wherein

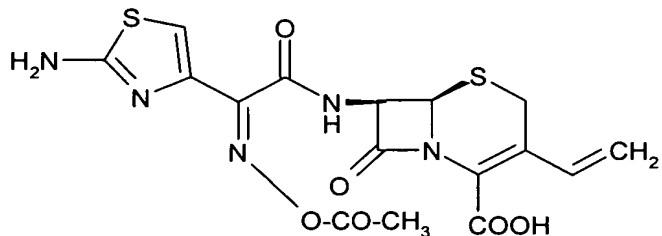
a) a reactive derivative of a compound of formula III



is reacted with the compound of formula IV



to obtain the compound of formula I



b) an acid HX, in which

X signifies Cl^- , HSO_4^- , H_2NSO_3^- , H_2PO_4^- , $\frac{1}{2}(\text{SO}_4)^{2-}$ or R_1YO_3^- ,

R_1 signifies alkyl or aryl and

Y is sulfur or phosphorous,

is added to the compound of formula I in order to obtain a crystalline salt of the compound of formula I with the acid HX,

c) the crystalline salt from step b) is isolated,

d) the compound of formula I in crystalline salt form from step c) is converted into cefdinir by cleaving the acetyl group on the oxygen of the oxime, and

e) cefdinir is isolated from the reaction mixture of step d).

Claim 6. (Currently amended) A process according to claim 5, ~~characterised in that wherein~~ ~~syn-2-(2-aminothiazol-4-yl)-2-(methylcarbonyloxyimino)-acetic acid mercapto-benzothiazolylester is used as the reactive derivative of the compound of formula III.~~

Claim 7. (Currently amended) ~~The method according to claim 5 wherein Use of the compound of formula I in the form of a crystalline salt as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 4 for the production of cefdinir.~~

Claim 8. (Currently amended) A bulk quantity of cefdinir having a purity of >99% by weight produced according to the process of claim 5-~~or~~6.

Claim 9. (Original) A process for the production of *syn*-2-(2-aminothiazol-4-yl)-2-(methylcarbonyloxyimino)-acetic acid-mercaptobenzothiazolyester, wherein *syn*-2-(2-aminothiazol-4-yl)-2-(methylcarbonyloxyimino)-acetic acid is used as the tri-n-butylammonium salt.

Claim 10. (Currently amended) A process for the production of *syn*-2-(2-aminothiazol-4-yl)-2-(methylcarbonyloxyimino)-acetic acid-mercaptobenzothiazolyester, wherein the compound of formula III according to claim 5 is used in moist form.

Claim 11. (Currently amended) A process according to claim 10, wherein the moist form which contains up to 50% by weight water, e.g. 20—40% by weight water.

Claim 12. (Currently amended) A compound of formula I according to claim 1 in the form of a salt, optionally in crystalline form, wherein the salt is selected from the group consisting of phosphate, hydrogen phosphate, mesylate, tosylate, sulfate, hydrogen sulfate and sulfamate.

Claim 13. (Currently amended) The compound in the form of a salt according to claim 12 which is 7-[2-(2-aminothiazol-4-yl)-2-(methylcarbonyloxyimino)acetamido]-3-vinyl-cephem-4-carboxylic acid phosphate having an X-ray powder diffraction pattern substantially as that shown in Figure 1.

Claim 14. (Currently amended) The compound in the form of a salt according to claim 12 which is 7-[2-(2-Aminothiazol-4-yl)-2-(methylcarbonyloxyimino)acetamido]-3-vinyl-cephem-4-carboxylic acid hydrochloride having an X-ray powder diffraction pattern substantially as that shown in Figure 2.

Claim 15. (Currently amended) The compound in the form of a salt according to claim 12 which is 7-[2-(2-Aminothiazol-4-yl)-2-(methylcarbonyloxyimino)acetamido]-3-vinyl-cephem-4-carboxylic acid tosylate having an X-ray powder diffraction pattern substantially as that shown in Figure 3.

Claim 16. (Currently amended) The compound in the form of a salt according to claim 12 which is 7-[2-(2-Aminothiazol-4-yl)-2-(methylcarbonyloxyimino)acetamido]-3-vinyl-cephem-4-carboxylic acid hydrogensulfate having an X-ray powder diffraction pattern substantially as that shown in Figure 4.

Claim 17. (Currently amended) The compound in the form of a salt according to claim 12 which is 7-[2-(2-Aminothiazol-4-yl)-2-(methylcarbonyloxyimino)acetamido]-3-vinyl-cephem-4-carboxylic acid mesylate having an X-ray powder diffraction pattern substantially as that shown in Figure 5.

Claim 18. (Currently amended) The compound in the form of a salt according to claim 12 which is 7-[2-(2-Aminothiazol-4-yl)-2-(methylcarbonyloxyimino)acetamido]-3-vinyl-cephem-4-carboxylic acid sulfate having an X-ray powder diffraction pattern substantially as that shown in Figure 6.

Claim 19. (Currently amended) A salt as claimed in ~~any one of~~ claims 12 to 18 in substantially pure form.